



TO THE PRINTER.

SIR,

As you have heretofore received favourably those remarks I sent you on the state of our navy, by inserting my letters I am induced again to trouble you on the same subject; more particularly at this juncture, that we are on the close of the present campaign, and it behoves us to take a view of the arrangements made for commencing the ensuing year with vigour and success. If we look on the past transactions of the two last years, how omenous and alarming was our situation eighteen months since, when our ancient enemies, combined for our ruin, put to sea a fleet of seventy line of battle ships, a force unheard of till now in history; a force which apparently was invincible, and to decline a combat with which, was no disgrace to a British commander! Yet have we seen the hand of Heaven evidently stretched forth in our behalf, saw it sweep away the numbers that thus threatened our destruction, saw the officers and men in this fleet fall by thousands through sickness and pestilence, and thus the strength of the enemy moulder and consume away; whilst ours, roused by its late danger, called forth each innate spirit, each exertion, which, till then had been wanting to render us again formidable. We must remember, how, in an expedition no less wisely planned than bravely executed, a British fleet took and destroyed several of our enemy's most respectable ships; how the same Admiral has successfully fought the enemy in other seas, and so disabled him, that he is obliged to return home to repair his shattered ships, and recruit his diminished numbers. In other parts a squadron sent from France to support a declining rebellion, is blocked up by a superior fleet of ours, and, not unlikely, may be obliged to surrender to the superior force and prowess of the British Admiral. In Europe, we have seen, during a whole summer, our fleet ride triumphant on the enemy's seas, and our cruisers possess themselves of several capital ships of war and privateers. The enemy indeed has had the good fortune to intercept a large, rich, and valuable convoy of ours; but this is all the consolation they have for five Spanish ships of war lost and destroyed; six Spanish of the line (including the St Carlos), two French (the Prothe and Comte d'Artois, of 64 guns), together with double that number of frigates added to the British navy. That we are setting out with a lively prospect of still more brilliant successes for the ensuing campaign, the candid reader will acknowledge, when he considers that, until the French fleet arrives in old France, no reinforcements can be sent to their settlements, which, in the West Indies, are defended only by eight ships; that on the other hand, such has been the provident care of the Lords of the Admiralty, that our Admirals have, or will shortly have, the following ships under their respective commands, and all (a few excepted) sheathed with copper, and supplied with all manner of stores in the greatest abundance. To convince your readers of this, permit me to present you with a list of the British line of battle ships on the 1st of December 1779, which I flatter myself is pretty accurate, and is drawn from remarks made at different times.

BRITISH LINE OF SHIPS, with their respective stations on December 1, 1779.

In North America, under the Admirals Arbuthnot and Graves.			
London	98	Triumph	74
Royal Oak	74	Alcide	74
Resolution	74	Europa	64
* Robust	74	America	64
Bedford	74	Prudent	64
Culloden	74	Intrepid	64
Total — 12 Ships.			

N. B. Insert here the Culloden, Triumph, Alcide, and Intrepid, formerly with Admiral Rodney, being informed by a friend that he has left them at New-York to reinforce Admiral Arbuthnot.

At Jamaica, under Sir Peter Parker and Admiral Rowley.			
* Princess Royal	98	Ranillies	74
Thunderer	74	* Ruby	64
Hector	74	* Trident	64
* Albion	74	* Stirling Castle	74
* Grafton	74		
Total — 9 Ships.			

In the Windward Islands, under the Admirals Rodney and Samuel Drake.

Sandwich	90	Terrible	74
Russell	74	* Shrewsbury	74
Ajax	74	* Vengeance	74
Centaur	74	* Fame	74
Egmont	74	* Montagu	74
* Suffolk	74	* Vigilant	64
Torbay	74	* Yarmouth	64

N. B. It is not unlikely but the Fame may be on her passage home, as she was intended to come with the first convoy.

Sailed for that Station the 26th of October.			
Alfred	74	Monarch	74
Sailed lately with Sir Samuel Hood.			
Barfleur	98	* Monarca	70
* Gibraltar	90	Beliqueux	64
Invincible	74	* Prince William	64
* Princessa	70	Panther	60
Total — 24 Ships.			

In the East Indies under Admirals Hughes and Vernon.

Superb	74	Exeter	64
Burford	70	* Asia	64
Belleisle	64	* Prothee	64
Eagle	64	* Rippon	60
Worcester	64		
Total — 9 Ships.			

Grand fleet now in the Bay of Biscay, under the Admirals Darby, William Drake, and Digby.

Britannia	100	Canada	74
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Victory	100	Dublin	74
Prince George	98	Defence	74
Formidable	98	Edgar	74
Queen	98	Fortitude	74
Duke	98	Marlbrough	74
Foudroyant	80	Valiant	74
Princess Amelia	80	Beaufaunt	64
Bellona	74	Nonsuch	64
Courageux	74	Inflexible	64
Cumberland	74	Buffalo	64
Total — 22 Ships.			

Besides the Jupiter and Warwick of 50 guns.

At home, quite ready for sea, or nearly so.			
Royal George	100	Berwick	74
Union	98	Hero	74
Ocean	98	Prince of Wales	74
Namur	90	St Albans	64
Alexander	74	Monmouth	64
Total — 10 Ships.			

Guardships.			
Cambridge	80	Dunkirk	60
* Diligence	70	Conquestadore	60
Lenox	74		
Total — 5 Ships.			

Repairing and sheathing with copper.			
Blenheim	90	Magnanime	64
Arrogant	74	Boyne	70
Conqueror	74	Lion	64
Magnificent	74	Raisable	64
Elizabeth	74	Repulse	64
Sultan	74	* Comte d'Artois	64
Kent	74	Medway	60
Total — 14 Ships.			

Recapitulation.			
In North America	12		
Jamaica	9		
West Indies	24		
East Indies	9		
Grand Fleet	22		
At home	10		
Guardships	5		
Under repair	10		
Total — 105 Line of battle ships.			

To this plain state of a navy, the most formidable that ever appeared in the annals of this or any other nation, I have only to request the candid reader will excuse any errors which may appear upon inspection; and I shall be obliged to any of your correspondents for favouring your readers with an account of the smaller ships in our navy, as also for lists of those ships which are building, specifying the times when they may be ready for sea. I am, Sir, your very humble servant, and constant Reader.

A COCKNEY.

N. B. The ships distinguished with a \* are the only ones not sheathed with copper, these marked † are taken from the French, and those marked ‡ captured from the Spaniards.

From the London Papers, Dec. 12.

L O N D O N.

Our present number of post ships in commission is 230, and we have 326 post Captains; our vessels under post ships are 94, and we have 214 Masters and Commanders; so that there are now 96 Captains, and 120 Masters and Commanders on the list who are unemployed.

The Empress Queen, who died on the 29th ult. after an illness of only five days, was 63 years of age, being born in the year 1717. There is much reason to apprehend that her death will produce a very material change in the posture of affairs. The Emperor, her son, succeeds to her hereditary dominions; and it is more than probable, that he will again lay claim to Silesia. He has constantly regretted the loss of this fine country, extending two hundred miles in length, along the course of the large and navigable river Oder, of the most extensive fertility, and best cultivation, abounding with men, with valuable manufacture, and yielding a clear yearly revenue of 800,000 l. sterling. This country, which gave birth to the last war, will, in all probability, become an object of contest between the Emperor and the King of Prussia, in which the former will be powerfully assisted by France, and also perhaps by Russia.

The life, and the character of her Serene Highness Maria Theresa was chequered with the most opposite traits of fortune and calamity, vice and virtue. She was eldest daughter of the Emperor Charles VI. who died in the month of October 1740, leaving the succession to the dominions of the House of Austria a matter of perplexity and doubt. It would be ridiculous to relate the particulars of the scene to which this contest gave birth; Europe was deluged with blood; and there was not a Prince, nor hardly a private person, who did not interest himself in the pursuit. Maria Theresa, who was married before her father's death to Francis Stephen, Duke of Lorraine, and Grand Duke of Tuscany, immediately took possession of all the dominions that had been left to her by her father; and while she had to struggle with the powers of France, Spain, Poland, and Bavaria, the enterprising King of Prussia seized upon Silesia. Her magnanimity, however, was neither to be conquered nor depressed. She felt her dangers like a soldier, and not like a woman. Having assembled the four orders of the state of Hungary, she appeared before them with her eldest son, the present Emperor, at her breast; and in an elegant address, in Latin, she told them, that "abandoned by her friends, persecuted by her enemies, attacked by her nearest relations, she had no other resource left but to lay in that kingdom, and commit her person, her child, her sceptre, and her crown, to the care of her faithful subjects." The Palatines, at once softened and inflamed by this pathetic

speech, drawing forth their sabres, exclaimed as one man, *Moriamur pro Rege nostro Maria-Theresa.* "We will die for our King Maria-Theresa." In this moment of her danger and difficulty, Heaven raised up a friend for her in Great Britain, by whose generous exertions, aided by her own fortitude, she was able to carry the competition for the empire, and extricate herself from all her embarrassments, with the loss only of Silesia.

The second part of her story, though it takes nothing from her intrepidity and love of enterprise, yet is a considerable diminution of her fame. She deserted and turned her arms against the friends who had raised her into being, and violated all the engagements of gratitude and honour, for the sake of pride and interest. She failed, however, in the purpose for which she took up arms,—and Britain gave safety to Frederick, as she had before to Maria-Theresa.

She was the mother of thirteen children by the Emperor Francis Stephen. Her son Joseph, the present Emperor, was crowned King of the Romans in 1764, and succeeded to the empire on the death of his father in 1765.

The hearing of Mr Morris's case, in the affair of Miss Harford, which was to have come on on Saturday in Lincoln's Inn Hall, is again put off till next Wednesday. Mr Morris attended.

On Saturday was tried in the Court of King's Bench, before Mr Justice Ashurst, a cause wherein Mr J. Mably, of Little Queen-street, was plaintiff, and two Gentlemen of the Hundred of Allulston, defendants. The action was brought for the recovery of 903 l. for repairing his houses and shops, and 1159 l. for furniture, stock in trade, and utensils destroyed in the late riots. The Court, after examining several respectable witnesses, was fully satisfied with the justice of the claims, and the Jury gave their verdict accordingly, making it special for furniture and stock in trade.

Yesterday was tried before Lord Chief Justice Loughborough, in the Court of Common Pleas, at Guildhall, an action wherein the carpenter of a privateer was plaintiff, and the owner defendant, in order to recover his share of a rich prize taken upon the seas. The Counsel, in his opening, said, that he would undertake to prove it a practice often exercised upon the poor ignorant seamen, to keep their wages and prize-money, under pretence of desertion; that he understood the defence rested upon that plea, and as he did not mean to contend that the plaintiff did not leave the ship, he should give a satisfactory reason for so doing. He then called the steward, who proved, that after the capture, the ship went into port for repair, and the Captain, without the least provocation, insulted the plaintiff in a very opprobrious manner, struck him, and dismissed him from the ship. The Judge left the question to the Jury, Whether this was a desertion from the ship, or the plaintiff was driven from on board by ill treatment?—The Jury, without hesitation, found a verdict for 104 l. damages.

By the death of Jocelyne Deane, Esq; there will be a vacant seat for the borough of Helston, in case the double return for that place should be decided in favour of that gentleman and Mr Philip Yorke, against Lord Hyde and Mr Evelyn.

The late Mr Jocelyne Deane was member in the Irish Parliament for the borough of Baltimore in the county of Cork. He left Ireland some time since on account of an ill run of luck; but having met with better success on this side of the water, and on the continent, he stood for the borough of Helston. He was the younger brother of Sir Robert Tilton Deane, Bart. a Privy Counsellor of Ireland, and member for the county of Cork, who is shortly to be created a Peer.

Robert Ross, Esq; and John Parnell, Esq; who are lately appointed Commissioners of the Customs in Ireland, are both members of the Irish House. Mr Ross sits for the borough of Newry in the county of Down, and has the rank of a Colonel, though not now employed in the military line.

Mr Parnell is son of Sir John Parnell, Bart. member for Maryborough in the Queen's county, and the greatest gentleman miller in Ireland. Mr Parnell was returned for Inishingo, after the last general election, on Mr John Lloyd's resignation. He was married in July 1774 to a daughter of the Right Hon. Sir Arthur Brooke, Bart. by whom he has three sons.

Colonel Ross has generally voted with Government; but Sir John Parnell and his son were in the Opposition. It is thought, however, since this appointment, that they will not oppose so strongly as before.

Extract of a letter from Captain Grant, Commander of the Dolphin, at Algiers.

"I am sorry to acquaint you that I am at present a prisoner in Spain. I was taken almost under the guns of Gibraltar on the 12th of August by three Spanish cruizers, who kept a continual fire on us for an hour and a half; all our rigging and sails were cut to pieces, luckily none of our crew were killed, and but one wounded. Although I am a prisoner, yet I have the greatest kindness shown to me. The Captain of the ship I am on board of, finding that I was stripped of all my apparel, gave me a waistcoat, shirt, stockings, &c. Admiral Barcello, whose politeness can only be equalled by his generosity, has presented me with seventy-five dollars, having been acquainted that the sailors belonging to some row-boats, had stripped me of my wearing apparel before any of his officers could arrive to prevent it. I am at a loss for words to express my feelings at the humanity of the Spanish officers, who insisted upon our using their beds; in short, the treatment we have received has exceeded our utmost wishes. I shall go to Gibraltar, and I assure you I almost regret our parting, as it will not be a separation from a haughty revengeful foe, but rather like the farewell of affectionate brothers, or the last participation of distressed friendship."









should this fleet be beaten by the English, they will once more regain that empire of the sea they now seem to have lost."

Extract of a letter from Portsmouth, Dec. 13.

"Yesterday arrived the Warwick and *Aeolus* men of war from Falmouth; *Pegasus* frigate from the eastward; and *Licorne* frigate and *Nimble* cutter, from a cruise. The two last fell in with the French fleet, said to consist of 33 sail of the line, and were chased by them. The people of the *Nimble* say, that they had parted with the English fleet but a little time before, and it was imagined that the two fleets would soon meet."

"This morning sailed the *Wolf* sloop of war, with several vessels, for the Downs."

Yesterday, at Guildhall, No. 16,355, 47,186, 36,869, were drawn prizes of 100 l.

And the following prizes of 50 l. each.

No. 34,329, 31,393, 31,73, 13,086, 28,768, 30,152, 28,324, 26,91, 33,84, 1011, 30,714, 26,301, 35,093, 18,812, 47,304, 33,938.

This day, at Guildhall, No. 22,975, was drawn a prize of 500 l.

No. 46,478, 38,170, 40,008, prizes of 100 l.

And the following prizes of 50 l. each:

No. 8077, 46,699, 30,889, 23,036 21,224 46,358.

PRICE OF STOCKS, Dec. 14.

Bank Stock, 111 1/2	3 per cent. Old Ann. —
4 per cent. Ann. 58 1/2 a 1/2	Ditto New Ann. 58 1/2 a 1/2
4 per cent. Ann. 177, 72 1/2 a 73	Ditto 175, 58 1/2
3 1/2 per cent. 175 1/2	India Stock, —
3 per cent. con. flut. 61 1/2 a 1/2 op.	3 per cent. Ann. —
3 per cent. red. 58 1/2 a 1/2	India Bonds, 10 s. prem.
Ditto 172 1/2	Navy Bills, 11 1/2 disc.
Long Ann. —	Lot. Tick. 28 l. a 27 l. 15 s.
Ann. 177 1/2	Omnium, —
Ditto 177 1/2	scrip. —
Long Light Ann. —	Each Bill, 6 prem.
South Sea Stock, —	Prizes, 1 1/2 a 1/2

WINDS AT DEAL.

Dec. 11. N. by W. 13, 13. W. N. W.

EDINBURGH.

Extract of a letter from London, December 14.

"This day, a commission appointing Lord Grautnam one of the Lords of the trade, in the room of Lord Carlisle, passed the Great Seal."

"This day, Captain Cornwallis waited on his Majesty at the levee at St James's for the first time since his arrival from South Carolina."

"On Tuesday night, dispatches were received by Lord George Germaine, from Quebec, which were this day laid before his Majesty at St James's by his Lordship."

"It is said, there are letters in town from America, by way of Holland, which mention, that a detached part of the army from New York, consisting of about 350 British, and 600 Hessians, &c. under the command of General Knyphausen, had surprised a party of the enemy lodged in a wood, which commanded a pass through which the British foragers were to march; that the attack was sudden, desperate, and well conducted. The Americans, to the number of 1800 choice troops, were obliged to relinquish their post, and retreat with great loss."

"This day some dispatches were received at the Admiralty from Admiral Darby, and are said to be of a nature that has given Ministry much uneasiness. The Admiral having had four ships of the line separated from him in the storm he met with, and being in other respects much weakened, should he happen to fall in with the combined fleet."

"We are uneasy about Darby's fleet. It is said they parted in a storm, at a time when most of the Captains and Lieutenants were called on board the Admiral. One of them put into Ireland in distress. It is also said the news from Charleston are not favourable."

"It is said that twelve thousand men are to embark for America early in the spring; and by draughts out of the Guards, with the 62d regiment, a body of 1000 is to be sent off the beginning of January."

"Within these few days the language of Government has been very much altered with regard to Lord George Gordon. The Ministry do not now pretend that they have evidence to convict him of high treason, but whisper through their friends, that they have had the noble Lord kept in confinement, not for the purpose of punishment, but merely to prevent him from it. They say, if he had been tried soon after the riots, the public would have been so incensed against him, that nothing less than his life would have appeased their rage; whereas the matter being now in a manner forgotten, and the passions of the multitude cooled, the prosecution against the noble Lord may gradually drop, and finally die away. Whether this is, or is not the case, cannot perhaps be positively ascertained; but it may be taken for truth, that it is given on the information of a worthy Alderman of this city, who may be supposed to be acquainted with it."

"The Attorney-General's opinion as to the illegality of examining prisoners accused in the first instance in a public manner, has struck the trading justices of this metropolis with such a panic, that there is not one of them that has not shut up shop, and the examination of prisoners is now as private as any thing done in the Court of Inquisition in Spain. The public, however, coincide with the Attorney-General on the occasion, and think he is deserving the thanks of the community, for suppressing a part of the police that tended to expose many an innocent person, who, upon his examination, was found to have been unjustly accused of a crime."

"The Earl of Carlisle, the new Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, set off this afternoon with a grand retinue for Holyhead, from which place he will embark for Dublin, where a most magnificent entertainment is prepared against his arrival at the Castle."

"The Honourable Francis North, Esq. second son of Lord North, one of the new Lord Lieutenant's aides de camp, did not go with his Lordship, on account of his indisposition, which has confined him for some days past to his bed."

"Lord Macdonald's case will receive the Lord Chancellor's determination on Monday next, when the last general seal will be heard at Lincoln's Inn-hall."

"On Sunday night last, about 11 o'clock, the mail from London, containing the Margate letters, was taken off from the horse at the door of the post-office at St Peter's, in the life of Thane, while the postman was leaving the letters for that place."

Extract of a letter from Dublin, Dec. 12.

"It was on Sunday reported here, that an express (via Cork) from America, had embarked for England, with an account of the voluntary surrender of the province of Virginia to his Majesty's dominion, and that the rebel governor had been confirmed in his station by General Clinton; as also, that preliminaries for a pacification had been transmitted from Congress to New York."

"And yesterday, it was very confidently reported in town, that five out of the twelve United States of America had sent delegates to General Clinton, with proposals of an amnesty under the protection of Great Britain."

Friday night, owing to the stupidity of the driver who was much intoxicated, a chaise and pair was drawn into Leith harbour, near the foot of the Weigh-house wynd. One of the horses was killed in the fall, the tide being out; the other was got over to the other side much bruised. The carriage is entirely destroyed. Very fortunately there were no passengers."

Friday a brewer's servant at the back of the Cannongate fell into a cauldron of boiling liquor, by which he was so miserably scalded, that he died in great agonies in the Infirmary on Saturday evening."

## FOR THE CALEDONIAN MERCURY.

OBSERVATIONS upon a Volume of Poems, published at Edinburgh in November last, and printed for Gordon and Murray.

THE Author of these Poems has concealed his name from the Public: For what reason, I shall not say. Sure I am, his performances do honour both to his genius and his heart. Through the whole of them, a spirit of poetry and of virtue is perceptible: Frugality is recommended; rural quiet and contentment extolled; and innocence duly celebrated: Luxury, the prevailing fault of the age, and selfishness, the perpetual attendant of luxury, are severely chastised: Pride, infoleney, and inhumanity, are mentioned with just abhorrence: The great end of poetry is constantly kept in view. Instruction is mixed with entertainment, — the useful with the agreeable. A cup of health is here presented to a diseased world; and they are enticed to drink of it by the sweet which is spread around its lips.

Various are the kinds of measure and verse used in these Poems. The Pindaric strain is that in which the poet seems to delight most. This was also the favourite strain of the first refiners of English poetry. It is capable of vast sublimity. Like the grandest works of Nature, it bears a face of majestic wildness upon a plan of much regularity. To its able execution, a lively imagination, strength of genius, and forcible expression, are requisite. It takes its name from Pindar, the famous Theban lyric poet. Difficult it is to reach his lofty manner of writing. The same sentiment is beautifully expressed in these words of Horace, that great master of song:

Pindarus quilibet studeat emulari,  
Tute, ceratis, ope Daedalei,  
Nititur penalis, vitreo daturus  
Nomina ponto.

How far the Poet has succeeded in the arduous task of imitating this great bard, the following lines, in the Ode to the Sun, will shew. One must discern in them poetical language and thought, in no mean degree:

Radiant ruler of the year!  
Source benign of joy and life,  
How thou gladd'st this cloudy sphere,  
Hushing elemental strife!

Timely, at thy genial smile,  
From the thaw'd prolific soil,  
Flowers and varied verdure spring;  
Naked forests robe their sprays;  
All, in wild harmonic lays,  
Plumy songsters joyous sing.

Rapture on thy rapid beam,  
Darts direct upon the breast,  
Disperses, with warm enlivening beam,  
The vapoury glooms that there molest.  
Thou wakest the flame of all-creative love,  
Till ether, earth, and sea with animation move.

In his *Panana*, the poet has imitated the stanza of Gray in his *Elegy on a Country Church-yard*. The *Panana* is a descriptive poem, and discovers considerable genius. To those who have beheld the place described, it must be particularly interesting. The nature of descriptive poetry partakes more of the pure and elegant, than of the majestic and sublime; it is somewhat allied to pastoral. The common, but agreeable beauties of Nature, demand not the bold and lofty expressions of war, or of high enterprise. To this distinction, due attention has been paid. The three first stanzas of the first part are remarkable for pleasant imagery, and for sweet and elegant expression:

The Sun at length the alternate Twins has pass'd,  
And hence from Cancer flames the radiant light;  
While winter, whir'd along the northern blast,  
Far distant howls, amid the realms of night.

All Nature now her fairest form resumes,  
Deck'd by the rosy hand of genial spring;  
And balmy zephyrs wait their sweet perfumes,  
As o'er the bloom they skim on downy wing.

Now, while Aurora opens the gates of day,  
And drops ambrosia o'er the lillied lawn,  
Awake, my Muse, inspire my humble lay,  
To hail the beauties of the rising dawn.

Every reader of taste must be highly pleased with the description in the thirtieth and thirty-first stanzas. In describing the beauties of Morning and of Evening, poets have been prodigal of all the powers of fancy. Such subjects are engaging, and naturally sublime the imagination. The poet undoubtedly felt all the cheering influence of the Morn when he wrote thus:

Behold, the pale and solemn face of dawn  
Begins to blush with heav'n's eternal beam,  
Which instantaneous shoots o'er hill and lawn,  
And breaks the orient with a golden gleam!

Lo! now appears the glorious orb of day,  
Unclouded, blazing from the eastern clime,  
To cheer the world with riv'ring ray,  
As round he triumphs in his course sublime.

I cannot leave this poem without observing, that *Pan* is introduced in it with too much of a modern appearance. The classical reader will perhaps be offended at finding that this god is attended with a choir of *Mistrel-jays*. He should have been better pleased to have found him surrounded with a groupe of *Panai, Sylvani, and Satyrs*. And perhaps it might have been still better had this divinity been diffused from the piece altogether. Ancient fable cannot appear in modern composition with any happy effect. It is void of all probability. The reader feels that he is amused with an idle and visionary scene. Hence his pleasure is diminished, and the ornaments which are designed to catch his fancy lose their power of attraction.

Before I conclude, the *Ode to Innocence* deserves to be taken notice of. The whole ode is beautiful, and the translation at the end of it, of the first lines of that famous Ode of Horace, which thus begins, *Juvencus et tenacem propositi virum*, &c. is particularly judicious and beautiful. The poet has been singularly successful in catching the spirit of these words,

Si fractus illabatur guttas,  
Insuper addidit, et cetera.

Magnanimous is the sentiment which they express. The celebrated Addison translates them thus:

Should the whole frame of Nature round him break,  
In ruin and confusion hurl'd,  
He, unconcern'd, would hear the mighty crack,  
And stand secure amidst a falling world.

In this translation, the word *crack* occupies so conspicuous a place, and is in itself so weak and mean, that it is apt to produce rather a contemptuous smile, than an elevated

emotion. Our poet has preserved all the sublimity of the original. I shall transcribe the whole passage:

The man of life, and conscience pure,  
Of just intent, and purpose sure,  
Dreads not the tyrant's thunders loud,  
Nor clamours of the impious crowd;  
Nor storms, nor waves, against him driven,  
Nor all the thunderbolts of heav'n;  
Should Nature's frame around him break,  
And fall an universal wreck,  
His godlike soul could view the scene,  
Uninjur'd still, and still serene.

In these Poems, the author discovers such merit as deserves encouragement from a generous Public. Favoured with their countenance, he may rise to still higher flights, and to greater fame. It is honour which nourishes the arts, and enlivens genius. This is the bright prize for which every noble mind contends; and this is the reward which a liberal people rejoice to bestow upon the excellent.

ARRIVED AND REMAIN IN THE SOUND.  
Nov. 23. *Bacchus* of and for Leith, Sands, from Riga.  
24. *Aene* and *Margaret* of Torryburn, Harrower, from Petersh.  
Dolphin, Clark, from, Menel for Laverkeithing.  
Elfinore, Nov. 25. Wind E. N. E. WAL. WOOD.

To-morrow will be published,  
EMBELLISHED WITH THE  
Arms of Thirty-Two of the SCOTS NOBILITY,  
And SOLD for R. and G. FLEMING, at the Warehouse, Old Fish-  
Market Close,  
A NEW IMPRESSION, CORRECTED,

THE EDINBURGH ALMANACK,  
FOR M.DCC.LXXXI.

The public will please observe, that the above Almanack contains a List of the Field Officers of the Standing Forces, English Militia, Provincial Corps, and Fencible Regiments; and also the whole Captains, Lieutenants, and Masters and Commanders of the Navy, which are not to be found in any publication of the like nature in Scotland. Communications, addressed to T. CURRIE, at the above Warehouse, will be carefully attended to.

WARM AND LIGHT WINTER FROCKS.

WALTER HAMILTON and COMPANY have, just now come to hand, Superfine Clouded Drab Devises, a new manufacture, surpassing light and warm for gentlemen winter frocks. A neat assortment of new and fashionable figured silks, and silk shags for vests, just from the loom by the coach. And also

A new, neat, and fashionable assortment of genuine Superfine cloths, superfine half-drab cloths, Hunters Cloths, Duffels, and Frezars, &c. Florentines, rich silk and worsted Breeches-pieces, printed Velvets, and other silk and cotton stuffs for vests and breeches; silk and worsted stockings; cocked and riding hats, &c. &c.; livery cloths, and strong drab cloths; Thicketts; hair and worsted shags, striped Flannels, &c.

WALTER HAMILTON and CO. beg leave to express their warmest gratitude for all former favours of their friends and customers; and, as their utmost endeavours will be exerted in procuring fashionable goods of the best qualities, and at the lowest prices, they hope for the future favours of the public in general, and of their former friends and customers in particular.

At their shop, continues to be sold, the remaining stock of Goods to a considerable amount, which belonged to their late copartners, of *Hamilton, Dalrymple, and Company*, consisting of a variety of Superfine Cloths, and other woollen drapery, silk and cotton goods, &c. And, as the affairs of that copartnership are infinitely to be wound up, they will be sold at very low prices, for ready money only.

THE ASTONISHING MUSICAL INFANT.

THIS amazing CHILD, named WILLIAM CROTCH, was born in Norwich. His father, by trade, a carpenter, having a passion for Music, undertook to build an organ, on which, as soon as it would sound, he learned to play two or three common tunes, such as, "God save Great George our King!" "Let Ambition be thy Mind!" and the "Easter Hymn." With these, and such chords as were pleasing to his ear, he used to try the perfection of his instrument.

This infant, being then only One Year and an Half old, discovered a great inclination for Music, by leaving even his food to attend to it, when the organ was playing. When he was Two Years old, he would touch the key note, in order to persuade his father to play his favourite tunes; and after this, two or three notes.

About this time, a Lady having played in a superior style upon this organ, the Child first attempted to play himself; and all the evening after, cried, and was so peevish, that his mother was unable to appease him. The next day, being left in the dining-room, and his brother blowing the bellows, he, with one hand, played, "God save Great George our King," so distinctly, as to bring down his father from the garret, where he was working, to see who was playing upon the organ.

At this time he was exactly two years and three weeks old. The next day, the child made himself master of the treble of the second part; and the day after, attempted the Bass, which he performed almost correctly, in every particular. After this, he played both the treble and bass of *Hope thou nurse of young desire*.

These circumstances soon drew crowds of people to hear this Amazing Musical Infant. His performances grew every day more perfect and astonishing. He has played before the King, and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge; and it is but little to say, that his powers inspire at once wonder and delight.

He now plays a great variety of tunes, in every air, and in every key, in full harmony, and with equal facility. He seems to have powers given him by his Maker beyond the lot of almost any other human being. By a faculty, which appears little less than miraculous, he plays an harmonious Bass to any tune whatever, which any other person shall play, and accompanies it, at the moment as he does, in a presentiment of every note which would follow. And this he does, in every possible variety and change of the key and air. He tells the name of every note you sound, though he is at a distance from you and busy about his sport; nor does he ever miss in a single instance. Nay, he will tell the several notes which compose any chord, consisting of two, three, or four notes at once, and with perfect exactness. He plays sometimes the music he has heard from others, and sometimes volunarily of his own, which, to judges of music, discover amazing variety, taste, invention, and musical intelligence. His appearance and manner are those of a mere child; but his mind is in general intelligent, and quick beyond his years. He has lately taken up a taste for Drawing, and sketches outlines of ships, houses, &c. with great rapidity and resemblance.

The learned reader is referred to the Philosophical Transactions, vol. 69, page 183, where he will meet with many more particulars related by Dr Burney, than can be comprised in an advertisement.

N. B. This astonishing MUSICAL PHENOMENON will begin to perform on the PIANO FORTE, on Wednesday next, the 20th inst. in St MARY'S CHAPEL, Niddry's Wynd.  
Admittance Two Shillings each.  
Time of performance from twelve to two o'clock.

AT LONDON,  
THE GREENHEAD,

CHARLES BUCHANAN Master,  
Is taking in goods at Hawley's Wharf, for Edinburgh, Leith, Dalkeith, Musselburgh, Haddington, Jedburgh, Hawick, Selkirk, Kirkcaldie, Dyfart, Pitvennoch, Queensferry, Dunfermline, Largs, Falkirk, and all places adjacent to the frith of Forth, deliverable at Leith: Will sail the 8th January 1781, with or without convey.

The Master to be spoke with at the Exchange, or Edinburgh Coffee-house No. 1. Swithing's Alley, mornings and evenings on board.



To the Honourable the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses,  
in Parliament assembled.

A REPORT of the Commissioners appointed to examine,  
take, and state, the PUBLIC ACCOUNTS of the King-  
dom.

THE act of Parliament that constitutes us Commission-  
ers for examining, taking, and stating, the public  
accounts of the kingdom, being passed, we entered imme-  
diately upon the execution of the powers thereby vested in  
us; we took the oath prescribed, and settled the necessary  
arrangements of office and forms of proceeding.

The legislature not having left to our discretion, which  
of the various subjects referred to our consideration we  
should begin our enquiries with, but, on the contrary, hav-  
ing expressly directed us, "in the first place, to take an  
account of the public money in the hands of the several ac-  
countants, and for that purpose to call upon them to deliver  
in a cash account; and to consider what sum it might be  
proper to leave in the hands of each accountant respect-  
ively, for carrying on the services to which the same is or might  
be applicable, and what sums might be taken out of their  
hands for the public service;" we, in obedience to the act,  
immediately applied ourselves to that subject.

The public accountants may be distinguished into three  
classes.

1st. Those who receive public money from the subject, to  
be paid into the Exchequer.

2dly. Those who receive public money out of the Ex-  
chequer by way of imprest, and upon account.

3dly. Those who receive public money from certain of  
this last class of accountants, subject to account, and who  
may be called sub-accountants.

We began our enquiries in the first class, and of that  
class, with the Receivers General of the land-tax. To come  
at a knowledge of their names, and of the balances of pub-  
lic money in their hands, we procured from the Tax-office  
the last certificate of the remains of the land-tax. By that  
certificate it appeared, that of the land-tax, window, and  
house-tax, to Lady-day last, the arrears in the hands of the  
Receivers General, upon the 14th July last, amounted to  
the sum of three hundred and ninety-eight thousand seven  
hundred and forty-eight pounds nine shillings and five-pence  
halfpenny.

As this certificate was grounded upon returns not made  
to us, but to the Tax-office, we issued our precepts to ev-  
ery Receiver General of the land-tax, and to the representa-  
tives of those who were dead, requiring them forthwith to  
transmit to us an account of the public money in their hands,  
custody, or power, at the time they should each of them  
receive our precept.

Returns were accordingly made to all our precepts; a list  
of which returns, with their several dates, is set forth in the  
Appendix to this Report; and from these it appears, that  
the balances of the taxes on land, windows and houses, ser-  
vants, and inhabited houses, remaining in their respective  
hands upon the days therein mentioned, amounted to the  
sum of six hundred and fifty-seven thousand four hundred  
pounds thirteen shillings and four-pence.

We proceeded, in the next place, pursuant to the direc-  
tions of the act, to enquire to what services these sums were  
or might be applicable, in the hands of the respective ac-  
countants.

And we find, that by the militia act, of the second of his  
present Majesty, the Receiver General of the land-tax for  
every county, is required to pay to the commanding officer  
of every company of the militia of that county, being order-  
ed out into, or being out in, actual service, one guinea for  
each private man belonging to his company, upon the day  
appointed for marching; and that, by the act of the twen-  
tieth of his present Majesty, for defraying the charge of the  
pay and clothing of the militia, he is ordered to pay to the  
clerk of the general meetings five pounds five shillings for  
each meeting, and to every of the clerks of the sub-division  
meetings, one pound one shilling for each meeting; and,  
except the charges of collecting, receiving, and accounting,  
we do not find, that, when the militia is embodied, the du-  
ties collected by these receivers are liable to any payments,  
or applicable to any services whatsoever.

In the returns made to us by the Receivers General, such  
sums as are stated to have been paid for these services of the  
militia, for the year 1779, are different in different coun-  
ties; but as these payments cannot, from the nature of them,  
amount in any county to a considerable sum, we conceive  
they may be made out of the current receipt of those taxes.

As the Receiver General is required by the land-tax act,  
within twenty days at farthest after he has received money  
for that duty, and by the acts which grant the duties on  
houses, windows, servants, and inhabited houses, within 40  
days after he has received those duties, to pay the same into  
the Exchequer; it became necessary for us to enquire upon  
what grounds, and for what purposes, the Receivers Gen-  
eral retained in their hands so considerable a part of these  
duties, so long after the same ought, according to the direc-  
tions of the several acts above mentioned, to have been paid  
into the Exchequer. To this point, amongst others, we  
examined George Rose, Esq; Secretary to the Tax-office;  
John Fordyce, Esq; Receiver General for Scotland; Wil-  
liam Mitford, Esq; Receiver General for the county of Suf-  
sex; Thomas Allen, Esq; Receiver General for part of the  
county of Somerset; Tho. Walley Partington, Esq; Re-  
ceiver General for the counties of Northampton and Rut-  
land, and town of Northampton; and George Rowley,  
Esq; Receiver General for the county of Huntingdon.

In these examinations, two reasons are assigned for this  
detention of the public money; one is, the difficulty of pro-  
curing remittances to London, especially from the distant  
counties; the other is, the insufficiency of the salary of two-  
pence in the pound, allowed the Receiver by the land-tax  
and other acts, upon the sums paid by him into the Exche-  
quer, to answer the trouble, risk, and expence, attending  
his office; to supply which, and to render the employment  
worth having, he has been accustomed to retain in his hands

a considerable part of these duties, for the purpose of his  
own advantage.

As an examination into the manner and charge of collect-  
ing and remitting, in an office of receipt, similar in its cir-  
cumstances, might enable us to form some judgment of the  
validity of these reasons; we directed our enquiries to the  
collection and remittance of the duties of Excise.

For this purpose, we examined Goulston Bruere, first Gen-  
eral Accountant, Richard Paton, Esq; second General Ac-  
countant in that office; Mr Richard Richardson, Collector  
of Excise for the Hertford collection; Mr Thomas Ball,  
Collector of Excise for the Bath collection; and Geo. Row-  
ley, Esq; who is Collector of Excise for Bedford collection,  
as well as Receiver General of the land-tax for the county of  
Huntingdon; and George Lewis Scott, Esq; one of the  
Commissioners of Excise. We procured too from that of-  
fice an account of the gross and nett produce of the Excise  
received by each Collector for the year 1779; in which it  
appears, that the gross produce amounted to the sum of  
three millions, seven hundred and fourteen thousand, seven  
hundred and seventy-one pounds, sixteen shillings, and an  
halfpenny, exclusive of the receipt at the Excise Office in  
London, paid in by the persons charged, without the inter-  
vention of a Collector; which gross sum being, as we appre-  
hend, considerably more than the amount of the duties paid  
to the Receivers General, is collected in England and  
Wales, by fifty-three Collectors, being only two more than  
the number of Receivers General of the land-tax, including  
Scotland.

From these last examinations we learn, that each Collec-  
tor of Excise goes his rounds eight times in the year; that  
he remits the whole of his nett collection in every round to  
the Excise Office, chiefly by bills at twenty-one days after  
date in the counties near London, at thirty days in the more  
remote counties, and at fifty or sixty days in the most distant,  
and none at a longer date; that he is continually remitting  
during his round; and, within a week after it is finished,  
sends up by a balance-bill all that remains of the duties col-  
lected by him in that round; that he finds no difficulty in  
procuring bills, could return more money by the same meth-  
od, and is never suffered to keep any money in his hands.

Each Collector is paid a salary of one hundred and twenty  
pounds a-year, subject to deductions amounting to one  
shilling and nine pence in the pound, and is allowed perqui-  
sites to about one hundred pounds a-year more, and gives secu-  
rity for five thousand pounds.

We endeavoured to form some computation of the loss,  
sustained by the public from the detention of the money by  
the Receivers General; and, for that purpose, we called for  
an account of the quarterly returns made by them to the tax  
office; from whence it appears, that the average sum in their  
hands, from the 5th of July 1778 (when the mode was ad-  
opted of transmitting the accounts on oath) to the 7th of  
July last, amounted to three hundred thirty-four thousand  
and sixty-one pounds: the interest of which, at four per  
cent. being thirteen thousand three hundred sixty-two pounds  
a-year, we conceive the public have been obliged to pay, for  
want of the use of their own money.

But the loss has been not of interest only; the revenue  
itself has suffered. For, by an account of the arrears and  
defaulters of the land-tax and other duties from the year  
1756, which we called for from the Tax-office, those arrears  
in the hands of the defaulters, not included in the first cer-  
tificate, appear to amount to one hundred and thirteen thou-  
sand one hundred and sixty-one pounds, seven shillings, and  
two pence halfpenny, of which twenty-four thousand, two  
hundred and fifty-seven pounds, seven shillings, and two-  
pence three farthings is actually lost upon composition; of  
the remainder, part is in a course of legal proceedings, and  
the recovery of a great part doubtful; Whereas, by a return  
which we required from the Commissioners of Excise, for the  
same period, we find there have been no arrears or de-  
faulters among the officers of Excise, except in one instance  
to the amount of three thousand six hundred pounds.

From this comparative view of the modes of collecting  
and remitting these different duties, and of the advantages  
accruing to the Receiver and Collector from their several  
employments, we are induced to think, that the Receiver Gen-  
eral of the land-tax is not warranted in his detention of the  
public money, either by the difficulty of procuring bills, or  
by the insufficiency of his salary.

Supposing, however, the difficulty of procuring bills really  
to exist, though it might occasion some delay in the remit-  
tance, it yet is no justification of the Receiver for constantly  
keeping a large balance in his hand; and, admitting the  
poindage not to be an equivalent for his pains, yet, we are  
of opinion, that the present mode of supplying the deficien-  
cy, by permitting him to withhold the duties, is injurious  
to the public, and ought to be discontinued.

The revenue should come from the pocket of the subject  
directly into the Exchequer; but, to permit receivers to re-  
tain it in their hands, expressly for their own advantage, is to  
furnish them with the strongest motive for withholding it.  
A private interest is created, in direct opposition to that of  
the public. Government is compelled to have recourse to  
expensive loans; and the revenue itself is finally endangered.

We are therefore of opinion, that there are no services to  
which the said sum of six hundred fifty-seven thousand four  
hundred pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence, is or may  
be applicable in the hands of the Receivers General of the  
land-tax, or of the representatives of such of them as are  
dead; and that it is not proper to leave any part of it in  
their respective hands; but that the same, or so much there-  
of as now remains with them, ought to be paid into the Ex-  
chequer, at such times, and by such instalments as may be  
thought reasonable, after a practice of so long continuance,  
and as shall be consistent with such engagements as may have  
been entered into with any particular receivers.

27th Nov. 1780.

GUY CARLETON,  
T. ANGUISH,  
A. PIGOT,  
RICHARD NEAVE,  
SAM. BEACHCROFT,  
GEO. DRUMMOND.

(L. S.)  
(L. S.)  
(L. S.)  
(L. S.)  
(L. S.)  
(L. S.)

LEITH SHIPPING, Dec. 16-18.

ARRIVED,  
Maria, Reid, from Porticton, in ballast.  
Betty, Lyell, from Dundee, with grain.  
Janet and Margaret, Muir, from Berwick, with grain.  
Jean, Bain, from Eymouth, with grain.  
Friendship, Cooper, from Ferriham, with lark.  
William, Thomson, from Penhamflats, with grain.  
Janet, Livingstone, from Alcomouth, with grain.  
Ellick, Keay, from Newcastle, with goods.

SAILED,  
Katharine, Steel, for Borrowlounness, with goods.  
James, Somerville, for Newcastle, with goods.  
Jean, Fyfe, for Glasgow, with goods.

HIGH WATER at LEITH.

	Moon's age.	Morning.		Evening.	
		H.	M.	H.	M.
Monday,	26	7	10	7	34
Tuesday,	23	7	58	8	22
Wednesday,	24	8	48	9	11
Thursday,	25	9	42	10	6
Friday,	26	10	34	10	58
Saturday,	27	11	25	11	50

PRICES OF GRAIN at HADDINGTON, Dec. 17.

	First.	Second.	Third.
Wheat,	18s. 6d.	17s. 6d.	16s. 6d.
Bar,	14 3	13 6	12 0
Oats,	13 6	12 3	10 9
Pease,	10 6	9 10	9 0

Mr MERCER, from London,

M'Intire's Land, St Andrew's Square, New Town,  
TEACHES Ladies and Gentlemen to DRAW LANDSCAPE,  
HEADS, FLOWERS, &c. Private scholars at their own houses,  
at Two Guineas for twelve lessons, and One Guinea entrance.  
Attends Boarding Schools twice a-week, at Half-a-Guinea a-month,  
and Half-a-Guinea entrance, each scholar.  
Also, teaches two afternoons in the week, at his own house, on  
the same terms as at Boarding Schools. Ladies and Gentlemen at sepa-  
rate hours.

Mr MERCER has had the honour to teach some of the first Nobility  
both in England and Scotland.

N. B. He paints MINIATURES, at Two Guineas each.

A MASTER is wanted for the Charity Work-

House of St Cuthbert's, or West Kirk. The office of Master in  
that house requires that he should perform family worship morning and  
evening; that he should teach the children Reading and Church-music,  
and instruct them in the principles of religion; and that he should be  
acquainted with Arithmetic, and the method of keeping accounts.  
Those who mean to apply, may lodge certificates of their moral char-  
acter and qualifications with either of the Ministers of West Kirk, (who  
will inform them of their encouragement) betwixt and the eleventh day  
of January next, when a committee is appointed to examine and judge  
of the candidates who may offer themselves, at eleven o'clock forenoon.  
Not to be repeated.

NOTICE

To the CREDITORS of JAMES SCRIMGEOUR,  
late Merchant in Edinburgh.

THE Meeting of the said Creditors, held here the 6th instant, in  
consequence of former advertisements, having been very thin,  
no resolution was formed with respect to the business before them. It  
was therefore resolved to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday the 20th  
instant, at one o'clock afternoon, to be then held within John's Caf-  
fe-house in Edinburgh; and as the business under consideration is of  
the utmost importance to the Creditors, it is requested that they will  
attend, either by themselves, or doers authorized to act for them.

EXCISE OFFICE, Edinburgh, 13th Dec. 1780.

By order of the Hon. the COMMISSIONERS of EXCISE,

THERE is to be exposed to SALE by public auction, at STRAN-  
RAER, on Thursday the 18th January next,  
64 Boxes, containing 3243 Pounds BLACK TEA.  
26 Casks, containing 190 Gallons FOREIGN BRANDY.  
The goods to be viewed at the Excise Warehouse on the morning of  
the day of sale.

BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
THE LORD PROVOST and MAGISTRATES OF  
EDINBURGH.

THERE is to be exposed to public roup, in the Laigh Council-house  
of Edinburgh, on Wednesday the 20th day of December 1780,  
at five o'clock afternoon, a set of the following subjects, for one year af-  
ter Candlemas next, viz.

THE PASTURAGE of the Middle and Wester Bearford's Parks, as  
presently possessed by James Macleish gardener.

THE PASTURAGE of Dean of Guild Allan's Parks, presently pos-  
sessed by George Mellis fether.

THE PASTURAGE of what remains unfenced, &c. of the Easter  
Bearford's Park, as presently possessed by Margaret Macallum.

And a GARDEN at West Church, presently possessed by John A-  
berdeen gardener.

Ehe articles of roup to be seen at the City Clerk's chamber.

INVERARY INN.

THE INN at INVERARY, possessed by John Buchanan, consisting  
of 17 fire rooms, 7 light closets, a large convenient kitchen, 7 bed-  
steads in the garrets for servants, and three apartments for lumber,  
three good cellars, with many other conveniences; stabling for 28 hor-  
ses, two shades for carriages, a byre, and hen-house; with two gardens,  
three grass parks, and hay furnished at the stable-door for 3 d. per stone,  
from the 15th August to 1st January; and at 4 d. per stone from 1st  
January to 15th August.

Part of the furniture will be let with the house, viz. five press beds,  
5 chests of drawers, 6 square folding tables, 18 small ditto, 5 dozen  
leather-bottomed chairs, 94 dozen timber-bottomed ditto, grates, fenders,  
&c.

For further particulars, apply to James Ferrier writer to the signet,  
Edinburgh, or to Donald Campbell chamberlain of Argyll, at Inverary.  
None but such as can bring proper recommendations need apply.

HOUSES IN EDINBURGH.

TO be exposed to SALE by public roup, within the British Coffee-  
house, upon Wednesday the 24th of January next, betwixt the  
hours of five and six afternoon, the following SUBJECTS:

I. That LODGING in Gavinloch's Land, opposite the head of For-  
rester's Wynd, being the sixth storey above the shops, consisting of 3  
fire rooms, with kitchen, cellar, and other conveniences, possessed by  
Mr Graham, and which was formerly let in two separate houses at the  
rent of 24 l.

II. That LODGING, being the third storey in the front of Milne's  
Square, entering by the scale stairs on the right hand, consisting of six  
fire rooms, with closets, kitchen, garret, two cellars, and other conve-  
niences, lately possessed by Mrs Murray, at the yearly rent of 36 l.

III. A HOUSE lying in the back part of the said Square, being the  
second storey down stairs, and consisting of three fire rooms, with kit-  
chen, and other conveniences, as presently possessed by William Leys,  
at the yearly rent of 8 l.

IV. Another HOUSE, being the uppermost storey of the tenement  
lying on the north side of the High Street, entering by a fore stair with-  
in the front of the Netherbow, and consisting of two fire rooms, with  
kitchen, possessed by David Farquharson, at the yearly rent of 8 l. 10 s.

V. That SHOP and DWELLING-HOUSE, lying on the south side  
of the High Street, at the head of Dickson's Close, lately possessed by  
Mrs Maitland Bannantyne grocer, and now by Miss Pillans, at the  
yearly rent of 18 l. 10 s.

For further particulars, enquire at John Moir writer to the signet.